

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Dry Creek Allotment #407

Prepared By: /s/ DK Brown **Date:** 01/21/2016
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ Silas Davidson for Anne L. Casey **Date:** 01/21/2016
District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Tommy Humphreville (permittee) and Jerry Jump (ranch manager) on January 21, 2016 to discuss management of the Dry Creek Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Thomas Humphreville	275 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Thomas Humphreville	5 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Thomas Humphreville	225 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Thomas Humphreville	3 horses	03/01 – 08/30

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cattle	03/01 – 04/15	Big Dry
Cattle	04/15 – 05/30	Sundial & Cedar Breaks
Cattle	06/01 – 07/30	Estes, Steer
Cattle	08/01 – 10/15	Roadstrip
Cattle	10/16 – 02/28	Big Dry
Horses	03/01 – 08/30	Cedar Breaks

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the Ranger District of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved verbally or in writing. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

The permittee has requested permission to clear tanks and lead ditches. Rubber tired equipment and existing roads for access will be used to complete maintenance on the tanks discussed.

Projects competed in 2015:

Replace pipeline 235OD and 235OC in Big Dry pasture (estimated need of 5500 feet of pipe = 11 rolls and one trough).

Replace pipeline 251 from valve box back up to Sheridan Storage Tank.
Estimate 6-7 rolls (3000-3500') of pipe.

Cleaned Blacktail, Fence & PDO tanks (Blacktail = 20hours, Fence = 6 hours, PDO = 11 hours @ \$75.00 per hour for loader).

Reconstructed fence #229 (all), and fence #187 from highway to the east 2.25 miles (labor cost = \$26,374, cement = \$806, Steel gate post = \$60, Braces = \$600, gate = \$150)

Rebuilt water trap at Hadley Tank (840 feet of fence).

Range improvements planned to be replaced/reconstructed in 2016:

Seal and repair storage tank 235OE (North Goat Storage Tank). FS has supplied sealant. Tank is 30'. Estimated 1350 sq. ft. (570 ft. steel wall & 800 ft. concrete floor) coverage needed.

Clean Hill, One Horn, Jug, Gravel Pit, Condon, & Dozer Tanks

Continue to reconstruct #187 fence toward the east to junction with fence #185

Reconstruct fence #185 (1 mile) from forest boundary (junction with fence #187), north to county road

Reconstruct Haney Corral #209

Need additional storage (2500-5000 gal) at terminus of pipeline below Dead Steer Corral

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District is planning to allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. You have indicated that you are in favor of managed fire on your allotment. We will notify you and solicit your input if we have a wildfire on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting your contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers such as dates of entering and leaving pastures. This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause

and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal, prior to, or at the time, the livestock are taken off the allotment. You will be required to provide your Social Security or Tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.

5. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of hay or other bulk feeds on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be certified weed free hay and you must provide the proper documentation.
- b. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks or molasses licks on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- c. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Allotment Management Plan for this allotment may need some updates to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. At the present time, direction for management on this allotment will be documented in these Annual Operating Instructions. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is in progress for the allotment.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

It is critical that livestock do not get into the San Francisco River. When you stock the pastures bordering the river check the river for livestock. Thank you for your successful past efforts in keeping cattle out of the river.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing.

VIII. UTILIZATION MONITORING

Monitoring will occur periodically on Dry Creek Allotment. When monitoring of grazing utilization occurs it will be targeted within 2 weeks before or after pasture move dates. Monitoring for forage utilization will occur after the summer growing season.

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved.

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of utilization of forage plants within a pasture. When necessary, verification of ocular estimates will be conducted using common methodology such as weigh/clip, grazed plant numbers, or

stubble height. Grazing use will be described in the following utilization categories:

Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to no-use	< 30%	Only choice plants and areas show use: there is no use of poor forage plants.
Conservative	31-40%	Choice forage plants have abundant seed stalks: Areas more than a mile from water show little use: About on third to one half of primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate	41-50%	Most of accessible range shows use: Key areas show patch appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants showing use: Grazing is noticeable in zone 1-1.5 miles from water.
Heavy	51-60%	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas: Palatable shrubs show hedging: Key areas show a lack of seed stalks: Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1.5 miles from water.
Severe	61 +%	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no stubble height): Shrubs are severely hedged: There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage: Areas over 1.5 miles from water lack stubble height.
Holechek, J.L. and D. Galt. 2000. Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Rangelands 22(3), pg 11-14.		

If you observe utilization levels approaching moderate intensity (40% or greater use) you will need to take action for making changes to the grazing in that area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, moving of salt and supplements, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions taken are appropriate.

Utilization monitoring will normally coincide with pasture moves of livestock. The percent grazing use will be documented at that time. The following dates have been tentatively been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Monitoring Schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Use
Big Dry, Sundial, Cedar Breaks	6/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)
Steer, Roadstrip, Estes	11/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)

Monitoring of utilization for woody riparian species will be conducted on a reach basis in identified riparian areas (see table below).

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Big Dry	Big Dry Creek, from the confluence of Spruce Creek down to private land.	Conservative (31 – 40%)	25% use on riparian woody sprouts and saplings
Steer	From private land to the water gap.	Conservative (31 – 40%)	25% use on riparian woody sprouts and saplings

Livestock are excluded by natural barriers from Spruce Creek and Big Dry Creek above the confluence of Spruce Creek and Big Dry Creek.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District. Change requests should be made in advance so that field inspections (if necessary) can be conducted. Approval of changes to this AOI may be verbal or written, depending on the nature of the change requested. Verbal changes will be documented to your file for record keeping purposes. Failure to follow the direction provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown if you have any questions or concerns.